

September 7, 2016

House Local Government Committee
Anderson House Office Building
Post Office Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of Senate Bill 239. I have been employed in the Animal Control field for 13 years; 11 as a Lead Animal Control Officer in Macomb County and the last two as the Chief Animal Control Officer in Lapeer County. I am not in favor of any legislation that bans a dog simply based on breed.

In my years of experience I have found that I have no more problems with American Pitbull Terrier or Pitbull type dogs than any other breed. There is no significant difference in the amount of bite cases or dangerous animal issues than Labrador Retrievers, German Shepherds, Rottweilers, Chows or any other large breed. To ban a breed simply on looks and unfounded stereotypes causes the unnecessary suffering and euthanasia of perfectly good family pets.

The law itself causes an enforcement nightmare. It is nearly impossible to prove beyond a reasonable doubt the breed of an animal. Animal Control Officers and Police Officers are forced into a position of removing an animal based entirely on an opinion and that opinion may differ between individuals based upon bias and/or training level.

I have worked in jurisdictions that have restrictions as well as those that do not. I find that no breed law or ban has decreased incidents of bites. Instead I have found that strict Dangerous Dog laws based completely on an individual dog's actions and not their breed are the most effective way of keeping a community safe.

I write to you as a professional and based entirely on my experience in the field. If you have any further questions please feel free to contact me. Thank you for voting in support of Senate Bill 239.

Sincerely,
Aimee Orn
Chief Animal Control Officer Lapeer County
(313) 605-0515